AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for forming transport frames to be transmitted on a communication channel, from coded-signal frames, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises at least one set of bits to be protected against transmission errors, the method comprising the steps of:

calculating a respective error detection code for at least one subset of bits included in said at least one set; and

placing said at least one subset of bits in a respective transport frame with the error detection code calculated therefor,

wherein [[some]] at least some of the transport frames contain a plurality of subsets of bits, emanating from different coded-signal frames and accompanied by the respective error detection codes calculated therefor.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the number of bits of said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error detection code calculated for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of said subset.

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in each transport frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the total number of bits of said error detection codes.

4. (Currently Amended) Device for forming transport frames to be transmitted on a communication channel, from coded-signal frames, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises at least one set of bits to be protected against transmission errors, including at least one subset of bits, the device comprising:

means for calculating a respective error detection code for said at least one subset of bits; and

multiplexing means for placing said at least one subset of bits in a transport frame with the error detection code calculated therefor,

wherein the multiplexing means are arranged to place a plurality of subsets of bits, emanating from different coded-signal frames and accompanied by the respective error detection codes calculated therefor, in [[some]] at least some of the transport frames.

5. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the number of bits of said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error detection code calculated for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of said subset.

6. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in each transport frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the total number of bits of said error detection codes.

7. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, further comprising coding means for applying, in each transport frame, an error correcting code to a block formed by the subsets of bits originating from said sets of bits to be protected and by the error detection codes respectively calculated therefor.

8. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the transport frames and the coded-signal frames are of the same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal frames is inserted into M consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that $N > M$.

9. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting coded-signal frames from transport frames received on a communication channel, wherein each coded-signal frame comprises at least one set of bits protected against transmission errors, including at least one subset of bits, the device comprising demultiplexing means for extracting from each transport frame at least one of said subsets of bits, along with a respective error detection code, wherein the demultiplexing means are arranged to extract a plurality of subsets of bits from [[some]] at least some of the transport frames, and to distribute the extracted subsets of bits, associated with their respective error detection codes, in different coded-signal frames.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the number of bits of said subsets varies from one coded-signal frame to another, and the number of bits of the error detection code for a subset of bits is an increasing function of the number of bits of said subset.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein, in each transport frame, the total number of bits from said sets of bits to be protected is constant, as well as the total number of bits of said error detection codes.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising decoding means for correcting transmission errors in a block formed, in each transport frame, by the bits pertaining to said sets of protected bits and by said error detection codes.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as claimed in claim 9, wherein the transport frames and the coded-signal frames are of the same duration, and the content of N consecutive coded-signal frames is extracted from M consecutive transport frames, N and M being numbers such that $N > M$.